

IN THE SPECIFICATION:

The heading and subsequent paragraph on page 1, line 3, are amended as follows:

Cross-Reference To Related Application Applications

This ~~application is based on~~ is the U.S. national phase of International Application No. PCT/US04/22075 filed July 8, 2004, which claims the benefit under 35 U.S.C. §119(e) of U.S. Provisional Patent Application Serial No. 60/486,781 filed July 11, 2003, and claims priority therefrom the entire disclosures of which are incorporated herein by reference.

The paragraph at page 7, line 15 is amended as follows:

In sharp contrast, treatment of myrcene with refluxing acetic or alkanoic acid in accordance with the ~~disclose~~ disclosed processes (optionally in the presence of sodium acetate) affords a product mixture, the 400 MHz ¹H NMR of which exhibited no absorption in the region of 0-1.3 ppm (delta scale). This NMR result is an indication that the isolated, non-conjugated double bond was not protonated under these conditions. Also remarkable about the disclosed process is that myrcene is essentially converted a 70:30 mixture of geranyl ester:neryl ester thereby minimizing the cyclic compounds derived from cation (7) as shown above in the background section of this disclosure.

The paragraph at page 16, line 15 is amended as follows:

Using a procedure similar to that described in Example I, a mixture of 0.25 ml (200 mg, 1.47 mmoles) of myrcene, 1.00 ml of methoxybenzene ("anisole," purchased from Fisher Scientific Co.), 1.00 ml (9.2 mmoles) of isovaleric acid (purchased from Aldrich Chemical Chemical Co., Milwaukee, Wisconsin), 3.00 ml (52.4 mmoles) of glacial acetic acid, and 96 mg (1.17 mmoles) of anhydrous sodium acetate was heated at vigorous reflux (atmospheric pressure) for 18 hours. After cooling the mixture at room temperature, the

product was isolated as described in the procedure of Example I. Most of the anisole (along with some of the "unreacted" myrcene) was removed at reduced-pressure (as low as 1 mmHg) over a period of approximately 40 minutes.

The paragraph at page 19, line 7 is amended as follows:

Since the disclosed process involves both the prenyl cation (generated by protonation of isoprene) and unsaturated esters [i.e., formation of prenyl acetate (9)], the formation of prenyl acetate (9) in high yields was ~~surprising~~ surprising in view of the contrary teachings of the prior art. In contrast to the results provided herein, one would expect subsequent reaction of the initially-formed prenyl acetate (9), especially at high temperatures in the presence of a carboxylic acid, to re-generate the prenyl cation, eventually leading to dimeric products.